

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091120

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 0758 ACTION STATE NAIROBI APR 9.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0758

DEPT ALSO PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, SO

SUBJ: ANTI-SIAD COUP

REF: MOGADISCIO 0747 ET AL

1. ON THE BASIS OF OUR OWN OBSERVATIONS PLUS REPORTING FROM OTHER SOURCES, EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE PRESIDENT SIAD'S ANNOUNCEMENT THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE COUP HAS BEEN CRUSHED IS ACCURATE. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED A SWEEP OF THE AFFECTED AREAS REPORT THERE IS STILL SOME SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE AREA OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AS WELL AS LIMITED ARTILLERY FIRE, 10 ROUNDS HEARD AT 1200Z. EMBASSY OBSERVER HAS ALSO SEEN TWO SOMALI MIG FIGHTERS OVERFLY THE CONTESTED AREA.. ROAD-BLOCKS ARE STILL IN PLACE WEST OF THE CITY. MOVEMENT IN THE
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CENTER ITSELF IS ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS THAN NORMAL. NO CURFEWS OR ARRESTS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. POLICE AND MILITARY GUARDS ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS WERE IN EVIDENCE.

2. WE HAVE NO CLEAR IDEA OF HOW MANY INSURGENT ELEMENTS ARE INVOLVED, OR HOW MANY CASUALTIES WERE SUFFERED BY EITHER REBEL OR LOYALIST FORCES. WE SUSPECT THE NUMBER IS LIMITED,

AND IF WE HAD TO GUESS WOULD SAY BELOW 100. FROM OUR OBSERVATION POINT ON THE ROOF OF THE STAFF APARTMENT BUILDING OUR EMBASSY OBSERVER WAS ABLE TO COUNT FOUR DEAD OR WOUNDED. THE SAME OBSERVER SAW SEVERAL TROOP-LADEN TRUCKS HEADING WEST ON THE AFGOI ROAD. NONE HAVE YET RETURNED. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN ADDITIONAL FIGHTING NORTH OF THE CITY, BUT THE CENTER AND NORTHWEST PORTIONS REMAIN UNDISTURBED.

3. COMMENT: THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS FOR US TO SUBMIT A DEFINITIVE ANALYSIS. MOREOVER, WE HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT MAY BE HAPPENING IN THE REMAINDER OF THE COUNTRY. WHEN WE REVIEWED SIAD'S VIABILITY WITH ASSISTANT

SECRETARY MOOSE

THREE WEEKS AGO WE POSTULATED THAT THE ONLY REAL THREAT WE COULD SEE TO THE SOMALI LEADER MIGHT COME FROM JUNIOR ARMY OFFICERS WHO HAD THE WILL AND MEANS TO STAGE A MILITARY COUP. THE WILL WAS PERHAPS THERE. THE MEANS WERE APPARENTLY NOT. (EMBASSY WILL HOWEVER MAINTAIN AN ALERT POSTURE UNTIL SATISFIED THE SITUATION HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL.) NO ACTIVITY OF ANY KIND HAS BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE EMBASSY OR ITS INSTALLATIONS, OR AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, ANY OTHER FOREIGNER. N. LOUGHRAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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